



OFFICE of PRIVATE SECTOR

LIAISON INFORMATION REPORT (LIR)



PUBLIC HEALTH SECTOR

20 April 2020

LIR 200420-007

Threat Actors Exploitation of COVID-19 Pandemic Increased Threats to Medical Facilities

The FBI's Weapons of Mass Destruction Directorate in coordination with the Office of Private Sector is providing this LIR to inform state and local government first responders and public healthcare professionals of potential increased threats to medical facilities. The FBI is issuing this report due to recent incidents in which a racially motivated violent extremist (RMVE) targeted a medical facility and the Islamic State of Iraq in ash-Sham (ISIS) endorsement of attacks in countries impacted by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). These incidents, as well as other RMVEs and other social media users advocating for violence against critical infrastructure, religious centers, and minority communities in response to the COVID-19 outbreak may entice violent extremists to target medical facilities.

- On 24 March 2020, FBI Kansas City disrupted a plan by a lone actor to attack a medical center using a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device in furtherance of the subject's domestic racially motivated violent extremist ideology. The perpetrator was a racially motivated violent extremist who wanted to attack the medical center because of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and the increased media attention the attack would gain due to the target being a healthcare facility. ISIS' declaration for supporters to exploit the COVID-19 pandemic and conduct attacks.
- On 19 March 2020, ISIS issued its weekly *al-Naba* newsletter urged supporters to attack healthcare systems in Western countries that are strained by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- From February to April 2020, online posts by RMVEs and other social media users have advocated for violence against critical infrastructure and faith-based and minority communities in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Potential Threat Indicators:

The following list of indicators is advisory in nature and can be utilized by law enforcement and first responders to identify and mitigate potential threats. The totality of behavioral indicators and other relevant circumstances should be evaluated when considering any law enforcement response or action.

- Individuals surveilling medical facilities,
- Frequent, multiple perimeter surveillance 'false' alarms,
- Testing security; sabotage or holes in fences or security barriers,
- Vandalism of perimeter security equipment,
- Persons seeking employment who do not have proper identification documents, and
- Negligent professional behavior or abnormal individual personal behavior.



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